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Chairman: Mr. Wenaweser ..... (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 100: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/57/3, 64, 135, 152 and Add.1, 153, 154, 158 and Add.1; A/C.3/57/L.2, L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Agenda item 101: International drug control (*continued*) (A/57/3, 88, 127 and 203)

1. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar), speaking on item 101, said that narcotic drugs continued to pose a serious challenge to the world community, with new threats, such as amphetamine-type stimulants, replacing old ones. Despite the best efforts of Governments and drug enforcement authorities, illicit drug traffickers continued to devise more effective ways to evade the law. To be effective, the fight against illicit narcotic drugs must therefore be concerted and multifaceted.

2. Myanmar was at the forefront of that fight. Despite a lack of resources and many years of being denied recognition, the Government had made significant progress which was finally being acknowledged. It had recently enacted a 15-year master plan to totally eradicate illicit drugs. Only three years into the plan, drug production had been reduced by almost 70 per cent. In June 2002, the Government had initiated a seed exchange programme under which commercial cash crop seeds had been exchanged for opium poppy seeds. In the first days of the programme, farmers had voluntarily handed over more than 290 tons of poppy seeds. In Yangon, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had been marked by the burning of seized narcotics worth over US$ 1.1 billion. National legislation to combat illicit drug trafficking had also been reinforced through the enactment of a law to combat money-laundering.

3. The annual joint opium yield survey conducted with the United States showed that the opium poppy cultivation area in Myanmar had declined by some 39 per cent in less than three years. The Annual UNDCP Opium Poppy Survey 2002 had also recognized the drastic reduction in poppy cultivation and opium production. Total opium production in Myanmar for 2002 was estimated at 828 tons, with some 241,700 opium-growing households earning a mere subsistence living of US$ 2 per day. Only the drug barons and narco-terrorists became rich by that nefarious trade. In the Shan state, where 90 per cent of opium was cultivated, the highest rate of opium addiction was among persons aged 60 to 64 years, who often used the drug to cope with difficult living conditions and as a substitute for inaccessible medicines.

4. Myanmar's war-torn border areas had for years offered an environment conducive to the cultivation of illicit crops. Now that the various armed groups had renounced warfare, the Government was doing its best to develop those areas by establishing schools, providing medical care and offering alternative means of livelihood. It hoped to receive the continuing support of neighbouring countries and the United Nations in turning the once-notorious "Golden Triangle" into a peaceful and prosperous, drug-free triangle.

5. **Ms. Jarbussynova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on item 101 on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that despite international efforts, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and drug abuse remained a serious global problem requiring an urgent response. Illicit drugs not only threatened the health of populations, but also undermined international security and impeded economic and social development. Illicit drug trafficking also served to fund international terrorism. The international community must make concerted efforts to suppress such funding, with the United Nations playing a coordinating role. The CIS countries supported the strengthening of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) to that end. They also attached high priority to implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

6. Recognizing that regional cooperation was crucial to the suppression of trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, CIS Governments were implementing a range of measures to coordinate joint action at all levels. The legal and institutional bases for regional drug control efforts were continually being strengthened, with the recent adoption of a programme of joint measures. A number of bilateral agreements and arrangements were also in place to further practical cooperation and joint policy-making in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

7. The situation in Afghanistan was a particular cause for concern. That long-suffering country remained the major source of drug trafficking across Central Asia to mainly European markets. The anti-

terrorist operations in Afghanistan had not affected the volume of drugs produced, and stocks were currently estimated at almost 10,000 tons. Some 300 tons of drugs crossed Afghanistan's border with Tajikistan each year. Such volumes posed a threat not just to the region, but to the world at large. The region's response must be commensurate with that threat and would require the continued support of ODCCP. The CIS countries reiterated their resolve to pursue their drug control efforts in close cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and Member States.

8. **Mr. Ivanou** (Belarus), speaking on agenda item 100 on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said that the global rise in organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in persons, corruption and money-laundering called for an enhanced coordinating role on the part of the United Nations. The CIS countries understood the Secretary-General's concern to strengthen the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat. All of them had introduced practical measures at the national level to implement the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice. They expected the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to help broaden international cooperation in the relevant areas.

9. The CIS countries supported the strengthening of legal measures to combat transnational organized crime and welcomed the negotiations on a draft convention against corruption, which they hoped would be finalized in 2003.

10. At the regional level, the Inter-State Programme of Joint Measures to Combat Crime for the Period 2000-2003 provided the framework for cooperation in criminal matters. The CIS Council of Heads of State was in the process of drafting a new programme for 2003-2004. A new CIS Convention on Legal Aid and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Cases had also been finalized in 2002 and other regional instruments were being drafted to combat various forms of organized crime, including hijacking.

11. In response to the global threat of terrorism, CIS counter-terrorism measures had been strengthened with the establishment, inter alia, of an Anti-Terrorism Centre. The CIS countries had reached agreement on a mutual warning system for countering terrorist threats and exchanging relevant information. The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly had also been closely involved in counter-terrorism initiatives.

12. The Commonwealth of Independent States was committed to expanding cooperation with States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and regional mechanisms with a view to combating all forms of crime.

13. **Ms. Thi Kim Anh** (Viet Nam) said that crime prevention and criminal justice had rightly been placed high on the United Nations agenda. Her delegation paid tribute to the Organization's efforts to help expedite ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, facilitate negotiations on a draft convention against corruption and prepare for the Eleventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. While the common fight against terrorism had been given priority in the Organization's work, issues such as transnational organized crime and drug trafficking should also be accorded due attention.

14. Her delegation attached importance to multilateral and bilateral cooperative efforts to tackle the world drug problem. In that connection, integrated, resolute measures tailored to specific national and regional circumstances were imperative. At the regional level, Viet Nam was cooperating with other Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in pursuit of a "Drug-free ASEAN 2015". Bilateral cooperation agreements had been signed with a number of countries and information-exchange arrangements were in place. Viet Nam continued to cooperate closely on drug-related issues with the United Nations and other international organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

15. Viet Nam's Constitution prohibited the illicit production, trafficking, sale, stockpiling and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. A National Committee for Drug Control was implementing programmes to eradicate the cultivation of drug crops and to treat and rehabilitate drug addicts. Successes to date included the reduction of poppy cultivation by at least 90 per cent. Domestic legislation had also been revised and supplemented to enhance national drug control efforts.

16. The United Nations played an important role in providing technical assistance to countries for combating organized crime and drug trafficking. By working together, the international community could continue to advance the common struggle against crime in all its forms.

17. **Ms. Tomar** (India) said that the world's view of terrorism had changed drastically. One year after the events of 11 September 2001, terrorism was no longer perceived as a menace threatening a remote corner of the developing world, but as a threat of global proportions.

18. India had been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism for many years and was thus heartened to receive confirmation from the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/152) that the United Nations had long been seized of the issue of terrorism and had been addressing it as a form of serious crime. Her delegation particularly welcomed the proposal to expand the programme of work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), knowing that its work had been stifled in recent years by an inadequate mandate and insufficient financial support. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme should be commended for a number of significant achievements in recent years. The United Nations should also address the serious threat posed by the criminal misuse of explosives, as recommended in the study by the intergovernmental group of experts mentioned in paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's report.

19. Turning to agenda item 101, her delegation stressed the importance of putting into effect the political commitment that had emerged from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, in particular the commitment to enhanced cooperation in drug demand reduction. The increase in the number of illicit drug users worldwide over the past two years was particular cause for concern. The successes achieved in reducing drug production and dismantling drug cartels were also being offset by the shift to the production of amphetamine-type stimulants. Enhanced international cooperation was required to address the remaining loopholes in anti-money-laundering legislation, as well as weaknesses in the controls on the diversion of chemical precursors.

20. The sinister truths behind the events of 11 September 2001 had revealed the links between crime, terrorism and the illicit drug trade. Concerted action was required to ensure that the children of tomorrow could live in a world free of those scourges.

21. **Mr. Osmane** (Algeria) said that the international community was becoming aware of the threat posed by transnational organized crime to the stability and well-being of nations and to international peace and security. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols; as a demonstration of its support, it was to host a regional ministerial conference to promote the Convention in Africa.

22. His Government, which in 1997 had urged the General Assembly to pay greater attention to the question of terrorism, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch (A/57/152) and fully supported its recommendations and proposals. He reiterated his delegation's view, however, that the report should be considered in the Fifth Committee because of its programme budget implications. His delegation was also participating actively in the drafting of a convention against corruption.

23. A comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach was required to combat the problem of drug abuse and trafficking, tackling both supply and demand. In Africa, the deteriorating economic situation, poverty and armed conflict had contributed to a rise in all kinds of illicit activities. In response, the African States had developed a five-year plan of action which included ratification of the relevant United Nations conventions and increased judicial cooperation. His Government had adopted measures to reduce drug supply and demand, provide rehabilitation for drug addicts and tighten border surveillance to prevent the transit of narcotic drugs through its territory.

24. Transnational crime in all its aspects posed a real danger to the stability of societies by undermining public health and well-being, security and the full enjoyment of human rights. His delegation reiterated its determination to contribute to any collective action to confront it.

25. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan) said that transnational organized crime, whose worst manifestation was terrorism, had added a new dimension to crime prevention. Pakistan, itself a victim of terrorism, shared the anxiety of the international community and had long been in the forefront of the campaign against it. That was not a policy option but an article of faith, because terrorism ran counter to the teachings of Islam, a religion of peace and tolerance.

26. The Centre for International Crime Prevention had a key role to play in the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In the short term, developing countries needed assistance in capacity-building through improved legislative and administrative mechanisms, manpower training and modern technology. In the long term, socio-economic inequities, which were often the underlying cause of crime, must be addressed.

27. His delegation attached great importance to the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch and its technical assistance mandate, and felt strongly that adding a contentious political dimension to that mandate would be counter-productive. It did, however, support the request for increased resources for the Branch. His delegation also welcomed the drafting of a convention against corruption.

28. There had been a rapid transformation in patterns of drug production, trafficking and abuse over the past decade. Many States, having achieved substantial reductions in illicit drug production and trafficking, now faced the problem of increasing numbers of drug addicts in their own countries. Moreover, Western countries had emerged as the main suppliers of synthetic drugs. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had stressed the need to strike a balance between supply and demand reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels. The preponderance of supply reduction projects in UNDCP programmes reflected donor apathy towards the plight of addicts in developing countries. His Government had addressed the problems of drug production and trafficking with great commitment, and for the past several years Pakistan had been poppy-free as a result of the implementation of sustainable alternative development programmes in cooperation with UNDCP. It was among the few countries to have established a separate Ministry to deal with drug control and it had cooperated in regional initiatives as well.

29. Rehabilitation of drug addicts and demand reduction strategies went hand in hand, but despite community and non-governmental organization participation, progress had been less than satisfactory. The costly and complex task of treating and rehabilitating 5 million drug addicts required international support.

30. **Ms. Lim Bee Kau** (Malaysia) expressed concern at the growth in crime rates worldwide, especially the use of new technologies for criminal purposes. It was vital to share technical cooperation and financial support to enable all Member States to protect themselves from high-technology and computer-related crime. A more open and integrated international system was the key to fighting organized crime, which knew no borders. Her Government had therefore signed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and welcomed the proposal to hold a treaty event in 2003 to achieve the goal of universal participation in that and other related multilateral treaties.

31. Turning to the issue of terrorism, it was important to bear in mind that efforts to combat terrorism would be futile if the conditions which bred it, including foreign occupation, injustice, exclusion, poverty and economic disparity, were allowed to thrive. The United Nations was the best forum to take the lead in addressing those concerns, and her delegation therefore reiterated its call for the early convening of an international conference under United Nations auspices to discuss terrorism in all its aspects.

32. Her delegation welcomed the negotiation of a convention against corruption, which would complement its own measures to combat corrupt practices and money-laundering. It was fully committed to maintaining the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as an important forum for sharing information on trends and problems in criminal justice and promoting cooperation among Member States.

33. While Malaysia was not a drug-producing country, it was aware that it was being used as a transit point. It therefore needed stringent laws to curb the problem of drug abuse by the local population, as well as drug trafficking. Her Government was also concerned at the increased abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and was heartened to note that ODCCP intended to make their abuse a priority item at the forthcoming ministerial-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

34. **Mr. Koren** (Israel) expressed support for ODCCP efforts to promote the entry into force of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols and welcomed the negotiation of a convention against corruption. His Government had established the Israel Money Laundering Prohibition

Authority, which cooperated with the Israeli police and Anti-Drug Authority in investigating and preventing crimes related to money-laundering and financing of terrorism.

35. His Government shared the international community's concern about the threat of drug abuse and trafficking. Among other measures, it had adopted a new prevention strategy that gave priority to intervention programmes targeting high-risk groups such as young people. International cooperation was a vital component of efforts to combat both transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Such efforts had become imperative, since revenues from drug sales were being used to finance terrorism. His delegation commended ODCCP regional cooperation programmes, especially the activities of the Central Asia office but was disappointed at the lack of cooperation in the Middle East region, where the renewed cultivation in Lebanon of cannabis and opium poppy was particular cause for concern.

36. Terrorism did not only affect those who suffered direct and indiscriminate attacks, but also posed a real threat to international peace and security. It endangered the international political process, including the peace process in the Middle East, where the dangerous link between drugs and terrorism was well known. Hezbollah oversaw drug cultivation, smuggling and terror financing from the Lebanese side of the border with Israel and its trafficking of firearms and explosives to terrorist organizations in the Palestinian territories was financed from drug profits.

37. His delegation supported the proposal to strengthen the Terrorism Prevention Branch and hoped that the Branch would do more to identify and promote awareness of the links between terrorism and related crimes such as drug trafficking. In conclusion, he drew attention to Israel's report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (S/2001/1312), which showed that Israel had been a leader in the counter-terrorism effort and was committed to working with other States to assist the international effort against terror.

38. **Ms. Karki** (Nepal) said that every society irrespective of its size or region faced the dangers of drug trafficking, crime, terrorism, corruption and money-laundering, even more so since the tragic events of 11 September 2001. The role of the United Nations and the international community in combating terrorism was more important than ever, and national capacities must be complemented by international assistance.

39. Her delegation commended ODCCP efforts to promote ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols. It welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and urged the international community to provide sufficient resources to fund technical cooperation for capacity-building in the developing countries. It endorsed the theme, "countering the trafficking in human beings", chosen for the twelfth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and urged the Commission to focus on a gender perspective. She drew attention to the efforts undertaken by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to prevent trafficking in women and children.

40. In negotiating a convention against corruption, the question of combating the transfer of illicit funds and returning them to countries of origin needed urgent attention. National efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicit funds should be supported. Lastly, she urged the international community to continue providing financial assistance to enable representatives of the least developed countries to participate in the high-level conference for signing the convention.

41. **Mr. Tekin** (Turkey) said that Turkey's geographical position at the intersection between East and West made it particularly susceptible to illicit drug and human trafficking. His delegation believed that global problems required global solutions, in that connection it had always advocated better coordinated international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and in crime prevention and the prosecution of criminals. Turkey had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, and was a party to all the United Nations conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

42. It was apparent that the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime were multiplying. In the aftermath of 11 September 2001, the role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention had gained added significance and he urged Member States to consider strengthening its infrastructure and capacity.

43. Tackling the multifaceted world drug problem required a comprehensive, integrated approach which took into account the underlying economic, social and political factors. That approach should include drug supply and reduction strategies and alternative development programmes. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation among law enforcement authorities was also necessary to successfully combat drug trafficking. Turkey had cooperated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) on several initiatives, including the establishment of the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, a study to assess the nature and extent of drug abuse in Turkey and, most recently, a project entitled "Basketball without Borders", which made it possible for children from Turkey and Greece to play basketball with NBA stars and to participate in interactive seminars designed to promote leadership and a healthy drug-free lifestyle.

44. He noted that 2003 would be an important year, in that it was the target date for meeting the first set of goals established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In order to achieve those targets, his Government had already enacted national legislation on money-laundering which permitted the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the laundered proceeds of drug trafficking and related drug crimes.

45. Advances in information technology had facilitated organized crime and he urged Member States to take measures at the national and international levels to counter the growing phenomenon of cyber-crime. Two other interrelated problems, namely, corruption and the trafficking of human beings, also needed urgent attention. His Government was determined to eradicate corruption and had introduced a series of legal reforms to that end. International cooperation in that area was vital, however, and his delegation welcomed the decision to draft an international convention against corruption. With regard to the trafficking of human beings, he reiterated the need for cooperation among law enforcement authorities and pointed out that the root causes of the problem should also be addressed.

46. **Mr. Bazel** (Afghanistan) said that, in accordance with the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001, his country was committed to cooperating with the international community in the fight against terrorism, drugs and organized crime. The Transitional Authority had re-established the High State Commission, which was responsible for formulating national anti-drug policies and strategies, and several provincial offices of the Commission had already opened. In addition, the police and security forces were actively engaged in the fight against narcotics.

47. However, despite the willingness of the Transitional Authority to eradicate opium poppy cultivation, its efforts had been hampered by a lack of resources. The devastating effects of the cultivation and use of narcotic substances were well known in Afghanistan: during the Taliban era, the cultivation, export and smuggling of narcotics had financed the activities of terrorist groups in Afghanistan and beyond.

48. The strong commitment of the international community was vital if action to counter Afghanistan's drug-related problems was to be successful. In that connection, the introduction of alternative crops and development activities were important to promote sustainable socio-economic growth in communities which had depended on illicit cultivation for their livelihoods. Such activities should focus on demining, repairing irrigation systems and power stations, developing community infrastructures and introducing new and improved seeds and fertilizers as a substitute for opium poppy seeds. Efforts should also be focused on strengthening law enforcement institutions, treating drug addicts, reducing demand and raising public awareness of the hazards of illicit narcotic production and use. To overcome its drug-related problems, Afghanistan needed the help of the international community in implementing a multi-dimensional strategy.

49. **Mr. Faati** (Gambia) commended the work of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) and its Centre for International Crime Prevention and expressed the hope that the global programmes developed by those bodies would synchronize their technical assistance and cooperation regimes for maximum effect.

50. Over the years, the Gambia had pursued a stringent national policy in the area of drug control and crime prevention. Although its security agencies had been successful in making arrests and securing convictions, it still faced the considerable challenge of reducing cross-border trafficking of cannabis, the consumption and trafficking of which, according to a

recent ODCCP report, was on the increase in West and Central Africa. Subregional cooperation in intelligence-sharing and integrated policing efforts would be major tools in combating that problem, and alternative development could be considered as a strategy to dissuade producers from cultivating cannabis crops in the subregion.

51. Unfortunately, logistical constraints continued to prevent the Gambian National Drug Squad, customs and police from discharging their responsibilities efficiently. Law enforcement training and the provision of adequate equipment were vital prerequisites for the successful implementation of regional and international instruments in the areas of drug control and crime prevention.

52. His Government was pursuing a crime prevention and criminal justice policy that responded to the needs of juvenile offenders, since it believed that international crime prevention should start with the rehabilitation of that group. Police and prison officers were being trained to deal effectively with young offenders and probation policy was being reviewed with a view to helping them return to society and become responsible citizens. He hoped that the juvenile justice projects embarked upon by the Centre for International Crime Prevention would be replicated in other developing countries.

53. Lastly, he drew attention to the precarious financial situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and, since his country currently occupied the Chairmanship of the Governing Board of the Institute, appealed to potential donors and relevant funding agencies to make financial contributions so that the Institute could operate at optimal capacity.

54. **Ms. Kim** Soo-Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that, with the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, the international community had made considerable progress in the fight against crime.

55. Although the attacks of 11 September 2001 had brutally undermined the conviction that a better and crime-free world was within reach and had underscored the gravity and intensity of the problem of transnational crime, the Republic of Korea had been heartened by the unprecedented solidarity of the international community in the days following the attacks. Her delegation hoped that the resolve to prevent and suppress injustice throughout the world would endure.

56. Trafficking in persons was also a matter of growing concern and must be addressed with specific law enforcement actions at the regional and international levels to prevent such trafficking, prosecute offenders and protect victims. To that end, her Government had directed resources to establishing institutions, enacting relevant legal measures and encouraging the participation of civil society at the national level.

57. Her delegation believed that the most effective way of combating transnational organized crime was to render it unprofitable. It therefore welcomed the initiative to draft an international convention against corruption. Combating corruption at the domestic level was a priority for her Government and a series of national measures had been implemented to create a supportive and safe environment that would ensure high standards of integrity for all. At the international level, her country would be hosting the Global Forum III and the eleventh International Anti-Corruption Conference in May 2003. It hoped that as many States as possible would participate in both events, so as to lend new impetus to efforts to counter corruption and related criminal activities.

58. Turning to the issue of international drug control, she noted that, despite the efforts of the international community to implement the three United Nations drug conventions, drug trafficking remained a priority issue on the Committee's agenda. Over the past year, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan had aroused great international concern, but it was clear that the challenge of drug-related problems was not unique to any one country and must be overcome through greater coordination and cooperation. In that connection, she reiterated her delegation's commitment to the goals and targets adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and welcomed the decision to convene a ministerial-level segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the special session.

59. ODCCP played a vital role in the fight against transnational crime and her delegation hoped that international cooperation would lead to the development of specific measures to address its lack of

resources. Her delegation did not believe in prescribing blanket solutions to the myriad problems involved in drug control and crime prevention, but it reiterated its call for a united commitment by the international community so that concrete solutions could be found.

60. **Ms. Molaroni** (San Marino) said that the events of 11 September 2001 had changed the way in which crime prevention was viewed and had lent new urgency to the issue. It had become apparent that terrorism, corruption and drug-related crimes were interdependent and that the modern world was a tiny place that could be easily infiltrated by criminals. Her delegation shared the priorities of ODCCP and welcomed the reorganization of its work under its new Executive Director.

61. The international community should continue to strengthen its legal instruments in the area of crime prevention. San Marino had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 and was currently working towards ratifying it. Her delegation endorsed the proposal to hold a treaty event in 2003, since good results would be achieved only through constant encouragement and reminders. In that connection, she supported the drafting of a United Nations convention against corruption. She also urged all Member States to comply with Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) and to ratify the 12 anti-terrorism conventions, and stressed that to fight terrorism effectively it was necessary to fight its root causes. Her Government had already compiled its first and second reports to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and had been working on specific laws to combat money-laundering.

62. Turning to the issue of drug control, she expressed concern about the increase in multi-drug addiction and alcoholism in Europe. In San Marino, over a third of young people attending school used soft drugs regularly and 42 per cent of the population felt that drug abuse was a serious problem in the country. In response to those concerns, various non-governmental organizations had organized an anti-drug campaign during the summer to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. San Marino had strict domestic laws against drug-related crime, under which severe penalties were imposed on dealers, users and persons found in possession of illegal substances, and it had signed all the international conventions concerning drugs.

63. Lastly, she drew attention to the link between poverty and drug trafficking and emphasized the extremely challenging task faced by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in pursuing the eradication of the cultivation of illicit crops. It was vital to encourage developed countries to increase their assistance to developing countries in the areas of alternative development and poverty alleviation. Her Government attached great importance to international cooperation, particularly with developing countries, and stood ready to adopt common measures to eliminate the scourge of poverty and its consequences.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.